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uncommon. "The spike as to form and imbrication of the scales is much as in *S. tenuis*, *S. compressus*, etc.; but the achenium, with its several longitudinal ribs and delicate transverse lineation, is upon the plan of that of *S. acicularis*. From Torrey's *Emplectocladus fasciculatus*, and two or three other species, a sub-order of *Prunus*, *Emplectocladus*, is formed. A synoptical table of *Chanactis*, D C., is given in connection with a new species, *C. attenuata*, from Arizona. Mr. E. L. Green, who has removed to California, has already detected there several of the new species enumerated.—5. The New York *Tribune*, Feb. 1st, contains a very surprising account, by Mrs. Mary Treat, of Vineland, N. J., of the carnivorous use of the supposed float-bladders of *Utricularia*.—6. From Prof. G. C. Swallow, State Geologist of Missouri, we have received (1) Geological Report of S. W. Branch of Pacif. R. R., 1859, with a catalogue of Trees and Shrubs; (2) Report of the Commissioners of Statistics of the State of Missouri, also with a catalogue of Trees, Shrubs, and Vines, 1867; (3) Report of the Curators of the State University, including the Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1874.

§ 7. **Chicago Botanical Gardens.**—Sixty acres have been set apart in the South Park of Chicago for a Botanic Garden, and Mr. H. H. Babcock, the Director, solicits contributions, "especially of seeds, cuttings, living plants, and herbarium specimens."

§ 8. **Torrey's Peak.**—All botanists are interested in the perpetuity of this name, but as there is another local designation, some anxiety has been manifested as to the probability of the latter prevailing over that given by Dr. Parry. In view of this apprehension the President of our Club wrote to Prof. Hayden, of the United States Geological Survey of the Territories, who in reply states that there is no possibility of Dr. Torrey's name being superseded by any other. It has priority of date, and is on all the maps of the survey.

§ 9. **Poisoning by *Cypripedium*.**—Prof. H. H. Babcock, in a communication to *The Pharmacist*, Chicago, January, 1875, states that, being especially susceptible to poisoning by *Rhus Toxicodendron*, he for several years took every precaution against it. He not only was careful to avoid contact with the plant, but would not collect specimens of other plants growing near the *Rhus*, and went so far as to avoid handling fresh specimens gathered by others for fear these had been in contact with it. Notwithstanding all this, he found that late in May or early in June of each of several successive years he was so severely poisoned as to be confined to his room for several days, his face presenting the appearance usual in poisoning by *Rhus*. Upon referring to his field notes, he found that each season the poison manifested itself the day after he had collected either *Cypripedium spectabile*, or *C. pubescens*, and feels quite convinced that in his case the unpleasant effects were due to these heretofore unsuspected plants. Prof. H. asks for experiment to determine if his view is correct. Have any of the readers of the BULLETIN any observations bearing upon the matter?

G. T.

§ 10. **Spiraea Aruncus.**—This plant grows abundantly in the "Green river country," Kentucky. Both Gray and Wood (Botanist and Florist) describe it as "calyx, without bractlets" (Gray), "bract-

less" (Wood), whereas my specimens uniformly show "a bractlet." No doubt the mistake has been made from the fact that the bractlet is deciduous, falling off some time after the flower opens, indeed, but before the fruit is ripe.

LAFAYETTE, IND.

JOHN HUSSEY.

§ 11. **Plants for Sale.**—Sets of Dr. E. Palmer's Florida and Bermuda marine algæ; also small sets of Kellogg & Hartford's California Plants, and Ghiesbreght's Chiapas (Mexico) Plants for sale with Prof. Daniel C. Eaton, New Haven, Conn.—A few sets of Dr. Palmer's other plants from East Florida and the Keys may be obtained of S. Watson, Cambridge, Mass., at \$8 the hundred.

§ 12. **Silphium.**—Are *Silphium integrifolium* and *S. trifoliatum* now regarded as two distinct species or only varieties of one? I am inclined to the view that they are only varieties. While botanizing on the Western prairies, I have often found two varieties so varying in their characters as to render it very difficult to determine where they should be placed—whether under *S. integrifolium* or *S. trifoliatum* as described by Gray. In 1866, on the prairies of Kansas, I found eighteen stalks or stems growing from one and the same root. Eleven of these stems had their leaves *all opposite* in pairs. Seven of them were trifoliate from the *lowest to the uppermost* leaves. Stems grooved, rather rough, but not 4-angular save a few which were very slightly so: about 5° high: panicle loose: achenia not answering perfectly to the description of either of the above mentioned species.

VINELAND, N. J.

GEO. SCARBOROUGH.

§ 13. **Painesville, Ohio.**—For several years I have noticed that in the autumn *Scirpus atrovirens*, Muhl., and *S. polyphyllus*, Vahl., are frequently *viviparous*, producing on the spikelets small bulbs crowned with small leaves. As the season advances they mature and fall, the heavy end striking the mud. They send out roots (there are rudimentary roots before the bulbs fall) and form new plants.

Mr. Watson informs me that specimens of *S. polyphyllus* showing these viviparous growths are in the Herbarium at Cambridge, collected in Connecticut by Dr. Barratt and in Virginia by Mr. Curtiss, but he is not aware that they have been noticed in *S. atrovirens*.

Last year I was fortunate in discovering the long lost *Fissidens hyalinus*, Wils. and Hook., but this year I failed to detect it in the same locality. I send also specimens of *Amarantus Blitum*, L., and *Hydrodictyon utriculatum*, Roth, collected in this vicinity.

H. C. BEARDSLEE.

§ 14. **Supposed revival of an ancient plant.**—Th. Heldrich, Prof. of Botany in Athens, thinks that an unknown *Glaucium* which has appeared among the scoria of the Laurian silver mines may have lain dormant there from the time of the cessation of the working of these mines, 40 years B. C., till the recent re-examination of this scoria by the Company whose dispute with the Greek government has of late attracted attention. The locality gives an interest to the story greater than the probability of the supposition.